

From: Craig Walker
To: Daron Haddock
Date: 9/16/03 8:50AM
Subject: Re: Elk and Deer

Daron,

Leroy and I have discussed this and agree that most of the mitigation plan (monitoring) will take place during a period (winter) when much of the site will likely be inaccessible. However, Jerriann mentioned (see attached) that mining is scheduled for the 4th left and 5th left panels in 2004 and 2005. If these other panels are within areas of similar geology (i.e., have comparable fracturing potential), I recommend that mitigation for current mining activities (3rd left panel) take the form of a pre and post disturbance monitoring program for these additional sites. Early development would allow a monitoring program for riparian habitat, aquatic invertebrates, and amphibians to be performed at a time when effects of fracturing on this system would be most evident (spring). Hope this helps!

-Craig

Craig A. Walker
475 W. Price Dr., Ste. C
Price, Utah
84501-2860

Ph: 435-636-0276
Fax: 435-637-7361

email: craigwalker@utah.gov

>>> Daron Haddock 09/12/03 08:58AM >>>

Leroy,

I am forwarding to you the Monitoring and Mitigation Plan that was developed for the Box Canyon Area at the Sufco Mine. We have already sent a hard copy via mail to Derris Jones, but we wanted to make sure you received a copy. We have asked the various agencies to comment by September 15th. I realize this is short notice, but a decision needs to be made very soon so the company doesn't end up bypassing a tremendous amount of coal. Thanks for your help.

>>> Leroy Mead 09/10/03 05:35PM >>>

Howdy,

The Pines area is actually critical for elk during late fall, winter, early spring months on mild years when snowpack is light. Any disturbance there during this time may cause the elk to drop down into the valley where they wreak depredation havoc on private property. That becomes very expensive for us.

Winter range exclusion dates are: Nov. 1 thru May 15

Elk calving dates (usually higher elevations) May 15 thru July 5

Elk calving and deer fawning season should not be largely effected in this area.

Our fishery guys have some concerns about water loss as a result of this project. The company has assured us this is not the case. However, we strongly recommend sound, piquant mitigation measures and we'll be keeping a close eye on this area. We have sent a letter previously concerning this project. Any cliff failure in Box Cyn. or its East Fork, or water/riparian loss as a result of mining beneath here will

be scrutinized closely by our agency.

Let me know if you need more information about this proposal.

Leroy

>>> Jerriann Ernstsens 09/10 4:10 PM >>>

Hi Leroy,

I am writing up a memo for Sufco amendment concerning the mining of East Fork of Box Canyon. If crack develop, we are requiring mitigation. The area is in critical elk winter range and high priority deer winter range. What are the calving or other sensitive times that require no or little access.

Thanks,

Jerriann Ernstsens, Ph.D.
Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining
Department of Natural Resources
1594 West North Temple, Suite 3610
SLC Utah 84114
801-538-5214
jerriannernstsens@utah.gov

CC: Chris Colt; Derris Jones; internet:diana_whittington@fws.gov; Jerriann Ernstsens;
Leroy Mead; Pam Grubaugh-Littig; Susan White